

WHERE THE TAXES GO.

CITY CLERK BLANDING GIVES SOME INFORMATION AS TO WHAT TAXPAYERS ARE PAYING FOR.

City Schools Do Not Receive as Much Money This Year as Last Through Clerk's Office—Increase in Taxes is Due to Placing of Levies to Care for Departments Which Formerly Had Behind, and to Provide Sinking Fund for Bonds.

City Clerk Blanding stated today that there seemed to be a very general lack of definite information and some confusion in the minds of the public as to the cause of the increase this year in city taxes. Judging from the questions of quite a number of the men seems to prevail that the increase in city taxes from 15 mills to 22 mills is caused by an increased levy for school purposes. This is not the case, but on the other hand the levy for school purposes, collected by the city, is one-half mill less this year than last, due to a past accumulation of funds for Washington school bonds sinking fund purposes, and an increased property valuation.

The increase in city taxes, exclusive of schools, of 7 1-2 mills was put on for the following purposes: Two and a-half mills for city ordinary purposes, which up to this time has yearly been running behind, two and a half mills to create sinking fund for four issues of city bonds, that have been running since 1905, 1909, 1911 and 1914, respectively, without any provision having been made to create sinking funds for their retirement at maturity, and two and a-half mills for paying the city's one-third of the paving lately laid under the abutting property act.

Looked at as a department of the city, the school is the only department which has been levying and collecting sufficient taxes to pay its bills as it went.

Of late years the water works department has been more than self-sustaining, but instead of accumulating a sinking fund for the retirement of its bonds its surplus funds have been used for general city purposes.

The levy added for schools this year for increasing the number of teachers and facilities is collected through the county treasurer's office.

The following is a breakdown of the city taxes:

Ordinary school tax	2 1/2 mills
City ordinary	2 1/2 mills
City bonds, sinking fund	12 1-2 mills
and interest	7 mills
(including new paving work.)	
For county and State	13 3-4 mills

Total... 43 1-4 mills

From a comparison of taxes of surrounding cities and towns, as far as he has been able to make, this is little, if any more than the rate paid where any development and progress is being made, Mr. Blanding states.

ASKS FOR INFORMATION.

Federal Trade Commission Calls for Data on Shortage and Needs.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The federal trade commission, in conference today with committees of newspaper publishers, paper manufacturers and jobbers in an effort to work out a plan for relieving the news print paper situation, addressed inquiries to all the interests concerned throughout the country to ascertain if an actual news print shortage exists.

Publishers of the large papers were asked if they will relinquish some of the paper they have contracts for during 1917; small publishers were asked the extent of their 1917 needs; manufacturers were directed to inform the commission concerning 1917 contracts and their next year's production and jobbers were requested to furnish general information regarding the amount of news print paper they will handle.

The conference discussed a plan proposed by manufacturers under which large publishers would give up 5 per cent. of their 1917 contract supplies to fill the needs of small publishers. There was a growing objection on the part of the large publishers to this proposal. The contention was advanced that no actual shortage exists and that manufacturers are to blame if there is a shortage next year.

Plans of this publishers for financing paper mills to help take care of newspaper needs, it was said, are rapidly taking shape.

BIG TRANSPORTATION COMBINE.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Senator Newlands, who is in charge of the president's railroad program, this afternoon advocated before the senate a complete co-ordination of the country's railroads, river and ocean transportation, to meet the country's transportation demands.

SECOND MAY RETURN SOON.

ADJUTANT GENERAL MOORE SAYS PROBABLY IN JANUARY.

Opinion Based on Information Obtained at National Guard Conference.

Columbia, Dec. 19.—The Second South Carolina infantry will be returned from border service early in January in the opinion of W. W. Moore, adjutant general, who returned to Columbia yesterday after attending a meeting of officers of the National Guard Association of the United States in New York.

"The opinion expressed by practically all of the officers is that none of the regiments will be returned before the holidays," said Gen. Moore. New York has been picked by the National Guard association for the annual meeting which will be held very probably in February. At the New York conference of officers the attacks recently made on the National Guard were discussed.

If the opponents of the militia carry their fight to congress the National Guard association will get busy, Gen. Moore said.

"We believe that the National Guard has made good in the border service and if attacked the association will defend the system before congress," said Gen. Moore. He said that practically all of the leaders of the guard were in favor of some kind of a compulsory military service.

MAY COME AT ANY TIME.

Washington, Dec. 18.—From what is learned here tonight it would not be at all surprising if the Second South Carolina regiment, now in camp at El Paso, Texas, should receive orders from Gen. Funston to entrain for home almost any day.

It was announced today that the men from two or three of the Eastern States will return home at once and with the work that has been done to get the South Carolinians away from the border and with what is taking place here regarding other members of the guard, their return immediately would not be a surprise.

BIG BATCH RELEASED.

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 18.—National Guard organizations aggregating 18,000 troops today were designated by Gen. Funston to leave the border service and return to their respective states to be mustered out of the border service.

The organizations will move homeward in three groups to facilitate use of rolling stock. Cars are now being assembled for regiments included in the first group and the movements from various border points will begin in a few days. Gen. Funston estimated it would be January 5 before all units in the last group had started. The first Virginia regiment is the only Southern troop organization included in the movement, it was announced.

BAKER DEFENDS MILITIA.

Secretary of War Expected to Advocate Thorough Trial.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Following fast on the declaration of J. M. Dickinson, former secretary of war, and Gen. Wood and Gen. Scott that the federalization of the National Guard had proved to be a complete failure and that compulsory military service was absolutely essential to the welfare of the nation, it is learned authoritatively that Secretary Baker intends to insist that the federalization be given a fair and thorough trial.

It is thought to be the belief of the secretary that the guard as a result of its long experience on the border has not been subjected to a test extended through a long enough period. At any rate it is learned that the secretary will interpose between the guard and efforts of certain influences to belittle, humiliate or destroy it. It is indicated that he will officially agree with the contention of the house that federalization should be thoroughly tried out, and oppose that of Senator Chamberlain that compulsory service must be imposed.

It is stated tonight that Mr. Baker will make his position clear this week, possibly while giving testimony before the house committee on military affairs.

ANOTHER JOB FACTORY.

Farm Loan Banks The El Dorado of The Job Hunters.

Washington, Dec. 18.—So certain is T. B. Stackhouse of Columbia, now in Washington, that Columbia is to get one of the farm loan banks that he has begun to sound the members of the South Carolina delegation in congress to have his son-in-law, M. L. Hawkins, appointed to a position with the bank. Mr. Stackhouse saw Senator Tillman, Representative Byrnes and other South Carolinians today and discussed the matter with them.

BIG ARMY NECESSARY.

GEN. SCOTT SAYS VOLUNTEER SYSTEM IS A FAILURE.

Urgently Recommends Adoption of Unusual Compulsory Military Service—Says This Country Needs an Army of a Million and a Half With Equal Number of Reserves for Adequate Defense.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The mobilization of the National Guard for border service was described as a military failure emphasizing the urgent necessity of abandoning the volunteer system as the nation's reliance for defense, in statements today by Maj. Gen. Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the army, and Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, commanding the Eastern department, before the senate subcommittee considering the Chamberlain universal military training bill.

Both of the generals advocated universal training. Gen. Wood declared that the country now was utterly defenseless against a well organized foe; that the mobilization was a tragedy and that if the guardsmen had met good troops they "would never have known what hit them." Gen. Scott told the committee that lessons drawn from the present war proved that in case of war with a first class power the United States would need immediately a trained force of 1,500,000 men, with another 1,500,000 available within 90 days.

On the other side of the question the committee heard Walter L. Fisher of Chicago, former secretary of the interior, who opposed universal service, though he stood for adequate defense measures and suggested a regular army of a half a million. He thought if the pay of privates were raised to \$30 a month the service would be more attractive to recruits.

Gen. Scott told the committee today that the army general staff recommended without apology that the volunteer system be discarded because "the time has come when this country, unless it intends to avoid war at any cost, must resort to universal liability to military training and service."

Terming the volunteer system extravagant, inefficient and dangerous, the chief of staff told the committee that universal training would be democratic, reliable, efficient and economical, and within a few years practically would render the United States immune from attack.

Gen. Scott pointed out that the Mexican crisis had failed to recruit many National Guard organizations even to their minimum peace strength. "The failure should make the whole people realize that the volunteer system does not and probably will not give us either the men we need in peace or for service in war," said he. He declared that if American troops ever were to compete with highly trained and splendidly disciplined forces they would require training and discipline equal to that of their opponents.

The lessons of the European war, the general said, "had demonstrated that a higher standard of training and discipline were required than was popularly considered necessary before, and that most of the European nations for that reason found they could not develop them in less than two years with the colors."

"It should be obvious," said he, "that 192 hours' training prescribed for the National Guard is utterly inadequate to prepare this force for war service."

For war with a first class power the general staff had previously estimated that 500,000 fully equipped troops should be ready at the outbreak with 500,000 more available in 90 days. The general was now of the opinion that 1,500,000 fully equipped and ready troops should be available, with another 1,500,000 to follow in 90 days.

"This is due," said he, "to the fact that one of the powers involved in the war, and whose territory extends the whole length of our Northern frontier, has increased its army from a relatively small force to a strength approximating that of the other great European powers. Due to the fact that our Northern neighbor is largely an island empire, a great portion of any trained force it may possess can be spared for use in a distant theatre of operations because, being an island empire, the

THE MEXICAN CONFERENCE.

CHANCE OF AGREEMENT FOR SETTLEMENT OF MEXICAN PROBLEM.

Carranza Instructs His Representative to Give Indications That He Will Accept Proposal for Policing of Northern Section of His Country.

Philadelphia, Dec. 18.—Gen. Carranza's representatives on the Mexican-American joint commission made to the American members today the admission that the protocol signed three weeks ago at Atlantic City had not been ratified. They supplemented the admission, however, with a declaration of the attitude of the Carranza government and assured the Americans that the delay in ratification did not signify the rejection of the agreement which they had signed after almost three months of consideration.

The exact character of the communication from the Mexicans was not made public but it was evident at the close of the conference that both Americans and Mexicans regarded as probable the official sanction of the protocol and the resumption of the sessions at which it has been planned to discuss questions at issue between the government of the United States and Mexico.

MUTINY AT JUAREZ.

Gen. Gonzales Refuses to Obey Order to Surrender Command.

El Paso, Dec. 19.—A virtual state of mutiny exists at Juarez, where Gen. Gonzales refused to obey orders to turn the command of the city over to Gen. Comaduran. Detachment of soldiers sent northward to Gen. Comaduran were disarmed by Gen. Gonzales last night. Gen. Gonzales' subordinates declare that he will resist with arms any attempt to oust him.

INVESTIGATE CASE OF RUSSIAN.

II Ship Was British Transport Germans Had Right to Sink Her.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The State department has cabled its representatives for a full report on the sinking of the Russian. If the vessel was an actual British transport this government has no case against Germany. Although seventeen American horse wranglers were killed. Full reports must be awaited before any action is

FIRE IN ATLANTA.

Department Store Destroyed With Loss of \$200,000.

Atlanta, Dec. 20.—Fire this morning destroyed the Allen department store. Loss two hundred thousand dollars.

control of the seas gives it practical immunity from invasion where troops would have to be transported across the sea.

"It should be pointed out also that our Northern neighbor is in alliance with a powerful Oriental nation—another island empire—and for the same reason when acting in alliance with a power which has control of the sea, has ability to send its army of 2,225,000 men to any part of the world without danger of invasion.

"I think a mere statement of these facts makes it clear that at present we are practically defenseless before the veteran armies of our Northern neighbor and could easily be crushed by the existing coalition of the island empires."

Gen. Wood, from whose department went 85,000 of the guardsmen sent to the border, said of the men enrolled when the call came, an average of 30 per cent. of each company had to be dropped for physical defects and the organizations went to the border filled up with green men.

"It's been a tragedy," he said, "but worth all it cost if we only profit by it. It was not the fault of the officers or men but of a defective system. If we had been compelled to meet good troops down there it would have been a scene of carnage. The guardsmen would never have known what hit them."

"What should we do with the National Guard, general?" Senator Brady asked.

"It should be replaced as rapidly as possible with men trained under a universal service system," Gen. Wood replied. "When the system has been well started, I would drop the National Guard entirely from any scheme of national defense although we want every officer and many of the men in the new plan. But it must be a straight federal force."

"Yet the States must maintain the National Guard or some other force," Senator Brady suggested.

"I believe a constabulary should be maintained by each State, not a military force," explained the general. "The police are trained to control while troops are trained to kill. There is less resentment when men are handled by police than when troops are called out. The people feel it is the policeman's business."

PEACE INFLUENCE FELT.

RELIEF FUND WOULD BE IMPORTANT AT THIS TIME.

Walcott Declares That Five Hundred Million Dollars Might End Great War.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Frederick C. Walcott of New York who recently investigated conditions in Poland and Belgium for the Rockefeller foundation told a number of senators and representatives who met tonight at the home of Miss Mabel T. Boardman of the Red Cross that a fund of \$500,000,000 collected in this country and offered for relief of non-combatants in Europe would be a powerful peace influence at this time. He said such an act would tend to create great popular demonstrations for peace among civilian populations of warring nations because they would be anxious for the assistance in rehabilitating their home and restoring normal living conditions.

With the forwarding yesterday of the notes of the central powers proposing peace negotiations the United States government performed its role of intermediary and took the only immediate step contemplated by President Wilson. It is believed that the speech before the British parliament to be made Tuesday by Premier Lloyd-George will set forth England's attitude.

NATIONS TO INSURE PEACE.

Idea Indorsed by Member of British Parliament in Speech in New York.

New York, Dec. 17.—Formation of a league of nations to insure lasting international peace after the termination of the present war was indorsed here tonight in a speech by John Howard Whitehouse, Liberal member of the British parliament. Mr. Whitehouse is here studying educational methods with the view of introducing them in England after the war. "America," he said, "has the opportunity, the will power and the humane instinct to bring about the organization of such a league."

DEFAULTING BANKER RETURNS.

J. T. Holleman Comes Back to Anderson, After Seven Years Absence, to Stand Trial.

Anderson, Dec. 18.—J. Townes Holleman, who defaulted in the sum of \$25,000 while cashier of the Bank of Anderson, and who left for the West about seven and a half years ago, leaving behind him a written confession, has returned and has surrendered to Sheriff Ashley. He returned voluntarily, declaring that he had spent more than seven years of torture, suffering all the pangs and pains, both mental and physical known to man, and that he wanted to come back and take the punishment that the law might enforce on him.

He visited a local office this morning with a number of friends and called the sheriff over the telephone, advising him of his presence in the city and stating that he was ready to surrender. Magistrate Cox and Solicitor Smith were also advised of his return. John K. Hood, counsel for Holleman, stated to Magistrate Cox that Holleman wanted to waive preliminary hearing and wanted to give bond for his appearance at the next term of court of general sessions, which convenes during the first week in February.

With the solicitor's consent the magistrate fixed his bail at \$1,000, declaring that he had taken into consideration the fact that Mr. Holleman had voluntarily returned and surrendered, indicating his desire to make amends for what he had done. The bond was signed by A. S. Farmer, Lee G. Holleman and E. P. Vandiver.

Holleman then left on the midday train for Seneca to see his family. Before leaving Holleman talked freely and frankly with a representative of the press. He said that the money taken from the bank was lost in speculations in stocks and cotton, mostly cotton. He said these speculations lasted about 12 months and that his troubles in the bank lasted about the same length of time.

On the morning of July 13, 1909, Mr. Holleman left Anderson, taking with him \$1,445 of the bank's money. He says that he could have taken considerably more, as there was a great deal of cash on hand in the bank at the time. He thought, however, that conditions were already bad enough and he says he took only what he considered necessary to get far away from Anderson. Personally, he says, he would gladly have given himself up to the law at that time but he thought that members of his family would be able to stand the ordeal better if he left.

FUNDS FOR CHRISTMAS.

Bandits Crack Oklahoma Bank and Escape with \$20,000.

Tulsa, Okla., Dec. 20.—Bandits last night robbed the Bank of Skia, took \$20,000 and made their escape.

COTTON GINNINGS FOR STATE.

1916 CROP NEARLY 200,000 BALES LESS THAN IN 1915.

Report of Cotton Ginned Prior to December 1 in 1916 and 1915 in South Carolina—Sumter County Shows Shortage.

The preliminary report of cotton ginned in South Carolina to December 1, 1916 and 1915, issued by Director Sam L. Rogers of the Bureau of Census shows a shortage of 189,681 bales in 1916 from the 1915 crop.

The report is:

County	1916	1915
Abbeville	23,770	26,597
Aiken	33,134	33,710
Anderson	48,510	51,945
Bamberg	20,596	14,267
Barnwell	40,285	33,688
Beaufort	5,220	3,417
Berkeley	4,628	8,511
Calhoun	19,786	17,344
Charleston	3,449	7,164
Cherokee	7,519	12,592
Chester	17,151	27,343
Chesterfield	16,521	25,301
Clarendon	16,953	24,290
Colleton	12,019	12,593
Darlington	15,569	29,618
Dillon	20,596	27,403
Dorchester	7,926	10,288
Edgefield	27,067	25,804
Fairfield	12,798	20,407
Florence	15,903	27,391
Georgetown	1,095	2,143
Greenville	29,001	37,627
Greenwood	26,100	25,141
Hampton	15,913	11,336
Horry	4,147	7,011
Jasper	4,764	2,865
Kershaw	9,406	22,175
Lancaster	12,070	18,816
Laurens	27,218	34,664
Lee	15,967	28,869
Lexington	21,368	20,905
Marion	10,369	12,474
Marlboro	29,643	45,637
Newberry	27,026	31,715
Oconee	14,995	18,286
Orangeburg	53,336	55,473
Pickens	13,136	14,428
Richland	15,009	17,976
Saluda	24,100	22,588
Spartanburg	44,515	59,347
Sumter	22,370	27,905
Union	10,917	15,770
Williamsburg	11,076	20,117
York	19,220	31,997
Total	832,161	1,021,843

ANNUAL FERTILIZER REPORT.

Columbia, Dec. 19.—Farmers of South Carolina this year used about 800,000 tons of commercial fertilizers, according to figures on file in the State treasurer's office. There is a tax of 25 cents a ton, which goes to the support of Clemson college. The total amount collected on the sales of fertilizers to date is \$177,560.97. The amount collected to the same date last year was \$158,968.60. It is estimated that the total for the year will be \$180,000.

FOOD PIRATES SAFE.

Washington, Dec. 19.—With the exception of a few isolated cases, the government is powerless to prosecute those who have been guilty of boosting food prices. Investigations by the department of justice reveal that the federal laws were violated in only a few cases. The department has asked congressional leaders for laws to make prosecutions possible, but congress has no power under the constitution to pass them. Except in a few cases it is anticipated that prosecutions will be dropped.

GERMANS WERE DISAPPOINTED.

Amsterdam, Dec. 19.—The news that the German peace note was handed to the allies without comment from President Wilson caused disappointment in Berlin. It had been hoped by Germany that President Wilson would express the desire of neutrals that peace be restored. German papers have warned the people not to be too optimistic.

ALLIES' LOSS ESTIMATED.

Berlin, Dec. 18 (via Sayville).—The losses of the French army to date have been 3,800,000 and of the British 1,300,000, according to "competent military authority," says an Overseas News agency statement today.

On the same authority the French losses on the Somme up to the end of November are estimated at not less than 250,000 and those of the British at 550,000.

London, Dec. 19.—The Russian council of the empire is unanimously in favor of rejecting the German peace proposals, states a Petrograd dispatch.

London, Dec. 19.—The submarine which sank the horse transport Russian with a loss of seventeen American lives is believed to have been German.

Birmingham, Dec. 20.—Fire this morning destroyed the Parisian department store and damaged other stores. The loss was one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.